

COUNTRY East Germany

REPORT

TOPIC Military Information from the Kindel Training Area

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EVALUATION

PLACE OBTAINED

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DATE OF CONTENT

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DATE OBTAINED

DATE PREPARED 2 June 1953

REFERENCES

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ENCLOSURES (NO. &amp; TYPE)

REMARKS

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1. Troops started arriving at the Kindel troop training grounds on 18 April 1953. Troop trains unloaded at the Eisenach freight station included 2 trains on 18 April, 1 train on 19 April, 2 trains during the night of 20 April, and 2 trains on 22 April. Other troop trains were being unloaded at the Mechterstaedt-Sattelstaedt railroad station at the same time. The troops, which allegedly came from Halle-Nietleben, were quartered in Camp Rudenko. The occupation of the camp on Highway No 84 started only on 20 April. The troops arrived by road, coming from a northern direction. [redacted] the troops came from practices from the direction of Langensalza and Friedrichswerth-Finne. On 13 May, Camp Rudenko was occupied to capacity by an estimated 10,000 troops, and the camp on Highway No 84 was occupied, except for a small section in the center, by an estimated 8,000 troops. [redacted] the troops were the same as in preceding years. The laundry in Eisenach received order to prepare for 25,000 men. [redacted] very little training activity and only occasionally small details of troops. Security measures were again very strict. Especially the roads around the training area were heavily guarded by Soviet troops and VP. Thirty-eight armored vehicles, the types of which could not be determined, were under the lean-to roofs in the west section of the training grounds. [redacted] more armored vehicles were available. Fifty trucks were parked on the southern border of the training grounds, south of the woods. Vehicular traffic on Highway No 84 was about the same as in 1952. [redacted]

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2. The unloading of units bound for the Kindel troop training grounds at the Eisenach freight station and the Sattelstaedt railroad station started on 18 April. Beginning that date, intensive vehicular traffic was observed on Highway No 84. [redacted] the troops were familiar with the locality. Prior to 13 May, the troops mainly prepared their quarters.

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3. At 6 p.m. on 6 May, 20 to 25 tanks engaged in a practice, were seen in the training area at Boxberg, south of Sundhausen. [redacted]

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1. [redacted] Comment. The information on the unloadings again confirms the arrival of units of the 57th Gds Mtz Rifle Div from Naumburg and Weissenfels, and the headquarters units of the XXIX Gds Mtz Rifle Corps, except for the unidentified engineer battalion of the corps determined in Dessau-Aken. Camp Rudenko is situated in the Gotha Forest, west of Haina. The 21st Gds Mecz Div had been quartered there during the years preceding the establishment of the Lossa troop training grounds.

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[redacted] small elements of the division, possibly the unidentified Gds engineer battalion from Halle-Mietzen, can again be carried in the camp. [redacted] The unit arriving at the training area by road from the direction of Langensalza probably was the 128th Gds Gun Arty Regt of the 57th Gds Mtz Rifle Div. The majority of the motor vehicle [redacted] belong to the 57th Gds Mtz Rifle Div, including the engineer battalion of the division; 6 vehicles belong to the corps headquarters; 5 vehicles to the 76th Arty Brig (US) from Merseburg; and 1 vehicle to the 94th RL Regt (US) of the XXIX Gds Mtz Rifle Corps from Leipzig. Individual vehicles from the area of the XXVIII Gds Mtz Rifle Corps were repeatedly observed in Kindel also during the preceding summers.

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